

News & Views

Boulder River School & Hospital

April 1st 1974

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STATE DOCUMENTS

UNIT SYSTEM MAY BE REORGANIZED

The administration is presently considering changing the present unit system. Consideration has been delayed by the strike. Before any changes are made, however, the opinions of the entire staff, parents of residents, and residents themselves will be solicited as to what kinds of living arrangements they feel are best for the residents. Hopefully, Cottage #3 will be ready soon, which will facilitate making new arrangements.

It is plain we cannot depend upon the legislature for external help, so we must rely on internal changes to alleviate what problems we can. By changing the present unit system, it may be possible to better utilize the resources that are available.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

In compliance with state guidelines, non-union employees have elected a grievance committee. The committee consists of Margaret Douglas, Roger Ogren, Gary Pagnotta (Chairman), Tom Seekins, Don Powell, and Gary Tokle (alternate). The committee is responsible for considering grievances from all employees, though specifically non-union employees.

Basically, the Non-Union Grievance Committee appears to offer a more direct channel in which to funnel such requests than has been previously the case. Of course, it remains to be seen how effective a tool it will be, but the potential is certainly there. It could become an effective means of employee input into the administration of this institution.

Employees wishing to use the committee should follow the prescribed procedures listed below. First, an employee should try to work out a solution with his or her supervisor. If this procedure fails, a written report should be filed with the committee chairman, including the following information:

- 1) detailed description of the grievance
- 2) names of people involved
- 3) any documents
- 4) history of the grievance to date
- 5) a statement indicating the inability of the supervisor to work out a satisfactory solution
- 6) the employee's requested solution.

The committee will then act on the grievance by deciding whether it is justified or not. If they decide it is justified, written notice will be sent to the Superintendent, who will have five working days to schedule a meeting with all involved. Otherwise, the employee will be notified of the rejection of his grievance.

THE KING WHO LOVED LOLLIPOPS

White Sulphur Springs High School presented Boulder River School and Hospital with a play on Thursday, March 28. The play was entitled "The King Who Loved Lollipops," which was enjoyable for all. The play was presented at 3:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. Approximately 200 residents attended the hour long play. The cast of seventeen high school students volunteered their time and effort to entertain the residents in a most enjoyable manner.

RESIDENT APPLIED FOR OWN RELEASE

Walter G. was first admitted to Boulder River School & Hospital on the fifth of November, 1963. He was then twenty years old. Nearly ten years later, Walter applied for his own release. In July, 1973, Walter dictated his release application to Janice Frisch.

Under the recently changed placement system, SRS was responsible for locating placement. SRS was unable to find "suitable" placement for Walter until court action set a deadline. Proper placement was found on March 15, 1974, ten months after his initial application for release. Walter was officially released from BRS & H on March 22.

Walter was placed in the Providence Resocialization Center, one of the largest half-house ranches in the country, with a population of around 75. Now that he has been released from BRS & H and placed by SRS, SRS has legal responsibility for Walter's welfare. In fact, he cannot return to BRS & H unless court action declares him dangerous to himself and society, in which case he could be committed to the school. Walter has applied for Supplementary Security Income, as he will receive no wage for the work he does on the ranch. However, he does have a fairly adequate personal savings.

PARENTS' VISITATION ROOM

A new space has been made available at BRS & H which can be remodeled as a parent's visitation room. The room is located in Cottage #9 above the canteen. As of now, parents wishing to visit their children are offered little privacy to do so. Of course, there is much work to be done. The Lewis & Clark Association for Retarded Children is spearheading this project and will come up with a plan and estimated cost for the necessary equipment and decor.

BETTY CROCKER COUPONS TO BUY BUS

The Soroptomist Club of Whitefish has initiated a project to collect Betty Crocker coupons to purchase a bus for Boulder School. The Helena Soroptomist Club along with others throughout the state have joined the program.

HELENA INDUSTRIES JEWELRY

The boys at Cannon House are selling Helena Industries Jewelry to earn a trip to the World's Fair in Spokane this summer. If you are looking for an unusual gift, contact Cannon House, 442-1717 for an appointment with a salesman or stop by 706 Cannon Street in Helena. Each piece is unique and handcrafted.

"DEATH WITH DIGNITY" LEGISLATION

Dr. Walter Sackett, a physician and member of the Florida House of Representatives, introduced a bill to save the state \$5 billion over the next 50 years by withholding antibiotics from Down Syndrome infants and permitting them to succumb to pneumonia. He calls it "death with dignity" legislation. On the other hand, the National Association for Retarded Children has taken a strong stand against this philosophy and instead supports life with dignity by changing the public attitudes about retardation.

RECREATION

Each month the Recreation Department holds a special event or project. These special activities generally create a lot of excitement and are looked forward to by the residents. They are also of great therapeutic value.

The special activity for the month of February was a basketball tournament on February 28. Units I, II, III, IV, and V entered teams, named the Jets, Globe Trotters, Skins, Bolts, and the Stars, respectively. Each team chose their own names and created their own team jerseys, adding to the team spirit.

After a well played and exciting tournament, the Skins of Unit III came out on top. Second place went to the Globe Trotters after losing to

the Skins 47-24. Jimmy R. of the Jets won the most valuable player award.

All the players showed a high degree of teamwork, passing off often, and getting the ball to the open man. The recreation aides did a fine job coaching the team from his or her unit.

The special activity for March is practice and workouts for the upcoming State Special Olympics to be held May 15, 16, and 17 in Butte. Each recreation aide is assigned a particular event and they train and coach the active residents two or three times per week.

STRIKE

Welcome back to all union employees. Now that the strike is over and everything is back to normal, a few subjective comments on the strike seems in order. Though most non-union employees supported the strikers' demands, many of them came to work long hours in unaccustomed positions. Though the legislature's response was really a negative one, there were some positive results. Many of the professional staff became more aware of what goes on in this institution. Many got to meet and become involved with 20 to 40 new people who live in this institution. These kinds of things may prove to be valuable learning experiences for the non-union employees, when it comes to making the many decisions it is their job to do.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Linda Ann Anderson	A.C. I Trainee
Ramona Azure	A.C. I Trainee
Robert Bloomer	Housekeeping Attendent Trainee
Judy Cass	A.C. I Trainee
Benjamin Donaldson	Part-Time Painter
Laurel Doolittle	A.C. I Trainee
Michael Ferriter	Asst. Houseparent
Raymond Gartner	Temp. Sheet Metal Worker
Harvey Howell	Housekeeping Attendent Trainee
Dwaine Kennis	Psychometrist
Marita Kozan	A.C. I Trainee
Fredrich Meyers	Laundry Worker I
Richard Pancich	Temp. Sheet Metal Worker
Timothy Plaska	Training Supervisor
James Powell	Maintenance Man II
Cynthia Routzahn	Temp. Laundry Worker I
Michael St. Onge	B.M.T.
Sharon St. Onge	B.M.T.
Michael Sullivan	Housekeeping Attendent Trainee
Mary Turner	A.C. II
Joan Van Duynhoven	A.C. I Trainee
Mary Jane Williams	Activity Aide
Margaret Belvill	A.C. I Trainee
Shirley Bryan	Food Service Worker I
Mary Corneliuson	A.C. I Trainee
Kay Diller	A.C. I Trainee
Bob Diller	A.C. I Trainee
Charlene Edwards	Clerk Typist II
Coy Edwards	A.C. I Trainee
Rhoda Gerrard	Clerk Typist II
Roger Gerrard	Electrician
Nita Hancock	A.C. I Trainee
Bob Hancock	A.C. I Trainee
Kathleen Keating	A.C. II
Raymond Lawrence	Housekeeping Attendent Trainee
Louise Leno	A.C. I Trainee
William Lowery	Maintenance Man I
Orin Marsh	A.C. I Trainee
Karen McChesney	A.C. I Trainee
John McEachern	Housekeeping Attendent
Ronald Nellerhoe	A.C. I

Welcome New Employees (Cont.)

Shirley Park
George Quam
Dennis Rau
Jennifer Thompson
Delores Williams

L.P.N. II
A.C. I Trainee
Physical Therapist
A.C. I
Behavior Modification Technician

RESIDENT MOVEMENT REPORT

Remaining on the grounds as of midnight March 22, were 568 residents. This was a decrease in population of fifteen residents from February 22. During this period there were no new admissions, while there were seven returns from placement, eighteen placements, and two deaths. The past three years has seen a similar monthly decrease in resident population, with an overall decrease of over 200 residents.

NEWS & VIEWS NEEDS INPUT

Space is available for any employee or resident that wishes to submit an article or editorial. They should be submitted by the third week of every month.

BRS & H News & Views
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